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TAGS: PREL PTER MOPS UNSC IS LE EI

SUBJECT: IRELAND WELCOMES UNSC RESOLUTION 1701

REF: STATE 132517

¶1. Ireland welcomes the adoption of UNSC Resolution 1701 as an opportunity to end hostilities in Lebanon and Israel, according to Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) First Secretary for Middle Eastern Affairs Stephen Dawson, to whom

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post delivered reftel demarche on August 12. Dawson referred Post to an August 12 statement by Foreign Minister Dermot Ahern (see para 2) containing points that he reiterated in a morning radio interview on the need to resolve the crisis. Dawson noted that Ireland would consider seriously any eventual request for troop contributions to the enlarged UNIFIL mission (beyond the 17 Irish officers who participate in UNIFIL as currently constituted). He observed that a such a request was "still down the road" and would have to specify the role that troops in the expanded force would play.

¶2. Begin text of Foreign Minister Ahern's August 12 statement:

I very much welcome the adoption by the Security Council of Resolution 1701, which calls for a complete end to hostilities in Lebanon and Israel, and sets out a range of principles and other measures with the aim of ensuring that this crisis is not repeated in the future.

This important development brings us appreciably closer to the cessation of violence which has been the Government's priority from the outset. It has taken more time and many more casualties than I had hoped to reach this stage, and has required difficult compromises for all parties, but it is important that we have now reached a broad international consensus on how to resolve the crisis.

There is a lot more work still to do. It has unfortunately always been much easier to start conflict in this area than to stop it. I again urge all sides now to cease hostilities immediately. And I urge all those who have influence with the parties to use that influence now to bring this about, and to encourage them to take all necessary steps to ensure a permanent end to the violence.

End text of statement.

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